

## Historic Japanese Tea Garden

The Japanese Tea Garden has a glorious history of over 90 years, from the time it was an operating rock quarry to today, as one of the most loved educational and cultural resources in San Antonio.

In 1899, the San Antonio Water Works Company, through its president, George W. Brackenridge, donated 199 acres to the City of San Antonio for a public park. This tract comprises the largest portion of the park that today bears Brackenridge's name. The park officially opened to the public in 1901. There was still an operating rock quarry west of the park leased by the City to stone cutters since the mid-1800s. In 1880, Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Company (later called Alamo Cement Company) began to use the quarry. When the company needed rail lines to expand production, it purchased a new site and closed its Brackenridge Park operation in 1908.

Between the quarry and San Antonio River to the east was an 11-acre tract of land owned by Mrs. Emma Koehler, widow of Pearl Brewery owner, Otto Koehler. Mrs. Koehler donated this land to the City in 1915 for a public park. Its location adjacent to the abandoned quarry posed a challenge for City Parks Commissioner, Ray Lambert.

Lambert ultimately came up with the idea of a lily pond, which eventually became the Japanese Tea Garden. With plans from his park engineer, and no money, Lambert was able to construct the Garden. Between July, 1917 and May, 1918, Lambert shaped the quarry into a complex that included walkways, stone arch bridges, an island and a Japanese pagoda. The garden was termed the lily pond, and local residents donated bulbs to beautify the area. Exotic plants were provided by the City nursery, and the City Public Service Company donated the lighting system. The pagoda was roofed with palm leaves from trees in City parks. When completed, Lambert had spent only \$7,000. In 1919, The American City magazine reported that "the city of San Antonio has recently completed a municipal lily pond and a Japanese garden which we believe are unique."

In 1926, at the City's invitation, Kimi Enzo Jingu, a local Japanese-American artist, moved to the garden and opened the Bamboo Room, where light lunches and tea were served. After Mr. Jingu's death in the late 1930s, his family continued to operate the tea garden until 1942, when they were evicted because of anti-Japanese sentiment during World War II. In 1984, the area was rededicated as the Japanese Tea Garden in a ceremony attended by the Jingu's children and representatives of the Japanese government.

In recognition of the Tea Garden's origin as a rock quarry that played a prominent role in the development of the cement business, as well as its later redevelopment as a garden, the site is designated as a Texas Civil Engineering Landmark, a Registered Texas Historic Landmark, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

[www.jinguhousesa.com](http://www.jinguhousesa.com)

## San Antonio Parks Foundation

The restoration of the Japanese Tea Garden is being accomplished as a public-private partnership between the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Parks Foundation and its affiliated organization, Friends of the Parks. The estimated cost of the completed project is \$6,000,000. The San Antonio Parks Foundation initiated a capital campaign to raise the required matching funds from the private sector; and foundations, corporations and individuals responded with generous grants, indicative of the broad community support for the restoration project.

Phase one in the restoration process, completed in 2007, included the restoration of the pavilion and the stabilization of the Jingu House. The second phase encompassed the repair and restoration of the ponds and the waterfall. The Foundation raised over \$850,000 towards the \$1.2 million restoration that included the installation of a recirculation system to provide a safe habitat for the Koi and aquatic plants. This phase was completed in March, 2008.



The third phase included the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Jingu House, for which the Foundation raised over \$1,000,000. Reconstruction on the Jingu House began in the fall of 2009, and was completed in October of 2011. The Japanese Tea Garden and the Jingu House are now open for reservations, and serve as the perfect backdrop for your wedding or next special event.

**Schedule Your Wedding or Special Event at the Beautiful Jingu House and Japanese Tea Garden!**

210-735-4648 Jingu House Cafe

210-559-3148 Venue Manager

[staff@jinguhousesa.com](mailto:staff@jinguhousesa.com)

Located at the Japanese Tea Garden in Brackenridge Park  
3853 North St. Mary's, San Antonio, Texas 78212

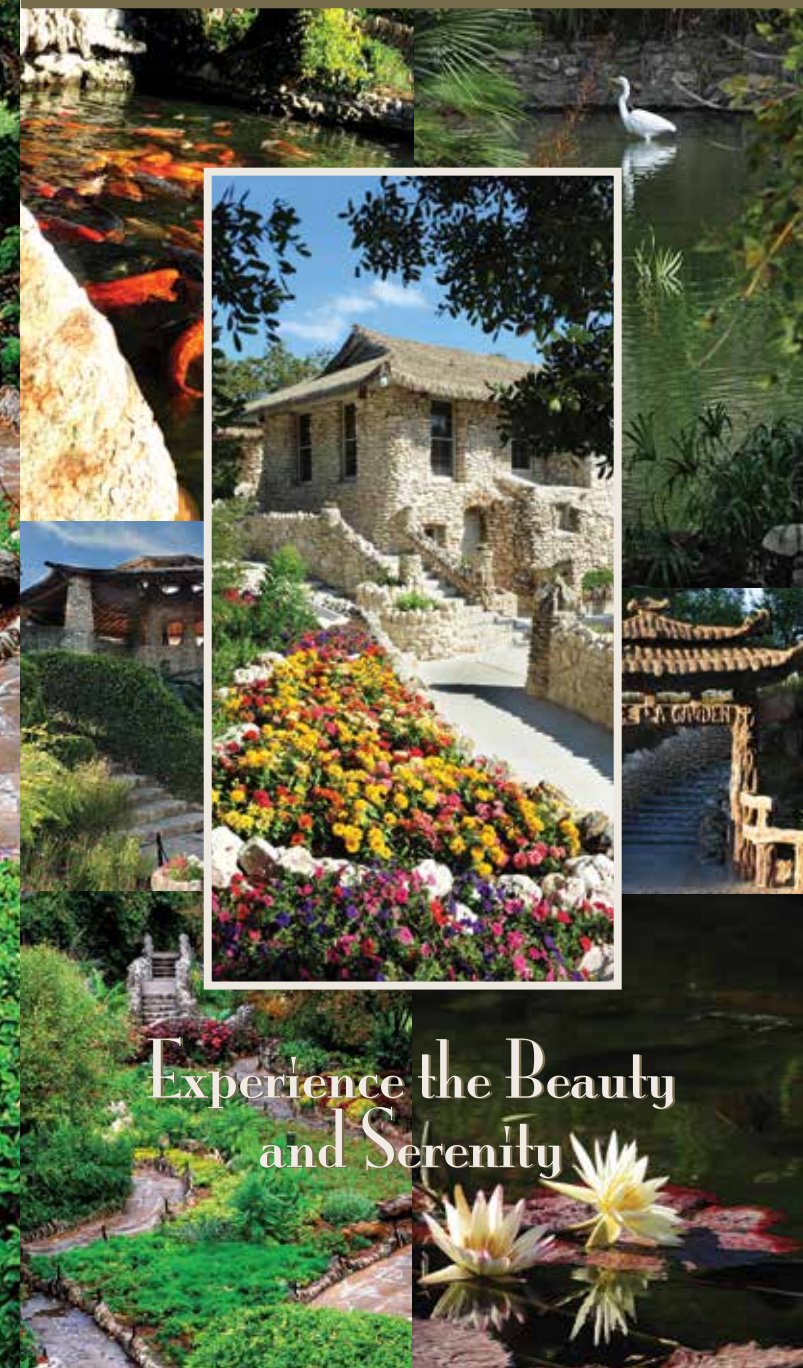
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**Jingu House**  
at the Japanese Tea Garden



**Experience the Beauty  
and Serenity**

## Jingu House Café

Located in Brackenridge Park, the Jingu House Café is housed inside the historic Japanese Tea Garden. The Café



is open daily from 10am-5pm (Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day). The kitchen is open from 11am-3pm. The Café offers al fresco patio dining overlooking the iconic pavilion, lush gardens, and impressive waterfall. The Lambert Room offers a tree house view of the grounds and interior dining for up to 35 people. The Japanese Tea Garden hosts complimentary

events throughout the year for morning meditation and yoga classes, as well as live music events on Friday evenings featuring delicious fare from the Jingu House Café and a great selection of wine, craft beers, and sakes. (Visit our Facebook page for a calendar of events.)

## Daytime Private Events & Reservations

The Lambert Room provides an ideal setting for club and board luncheons, wedding and baby showers, tea parties, and birthdays. For parties of 6 or more a 20% service fee applies. For parties of 15 or more a room rental fee may apply. Custom menus are available for private events as well as offerings from the Jingu House Café menu.

**Rental Fees:** Daytime weekday events start at \$150 for up to a two-hour rental of the Lambert Room, \$200 for daytime weekend events.

Daytime private events can be held from 10am-5pm and minimum food, beverage fees apply starting at \$350 for weekday events and \$500 for weekend events.



For Reservations or Information  
210-735-4648 Jinju House Cafe  
210-559-3148 Venue Manager  
staff@jinguhousesa.com

www.jinguhousesa.com

## Daytime Special Events & Daytime Wedding Packages

Plan your special event for groups up to 50, during daytime hours 9 am to 4 pm.

To reserve your desired date and time, call 210-559-3148, or email staff@jinguhousesa.com.

### Venue Rental Fee

Waterfall & Lower Garden -  
\$225 for 1-hour reservation  
\$50 Security Fee

Pavilion in Upper Garden -  
Wedding Ceremony for up  
to 50 Guests  
\$350 for 1<sup>st</sup> hour reservation  
(maximum 2-hour rental,  
\$235 for 2<sup>nd</sup> hour)  
\$50 per hour Security Fee



## Daytime Pavilion Chair Package at \$295\*



Package includes, on-site Venue Manager, water station, up to 50 folding chairs, one linen-draped ceremony table, set-up, clean-up, trash removal, and use of Jingu House restrooms.

Ask about additional services available.

\*Venue rental fee and security fee additional.

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## Evening Weddings & Events

Nestled in Brackenridge Park, the Japanese Tea Garden offers unmatched beauty and serenity. Together with the historic Jingu House, this venue is the perfect setting for your wedding or special event.



Located in the heart of San Antonio, the picturesque gardens offer an exquisite setting for a romantic sunset wedding or an intimate evening event under the stars.



The Jingu House, patio, pavilion and upper garden are available for private dining or events after 5 pm and can accommodate up to 300 guests. The Jingu House is an ideal setting for wedding receptions, corporate or private social events, rehearsal dinners, cocktail receptions, and private dining.

As the exclusive provider of event services, the Jingu House can assist you with planning and coordination of catering, equipment rentals, bar services, photography/videography, audio visual, lighting, florals, décor, and other services.

Venue rental fee, security and non-refundable deposit required.

### Venue Rental Fee for Japanese Tea Garden and Jingu House

Sunday thru Thursday Intimate Gathering for groups up to  
100 guests - \$500; 101 to 200 guests - \$600; 201 to 300 guests - \$700  
Friday & Saturday - \$1000 flat rate  
Rates include the non-refundable deposit.  
Plus security and food and beverage service.

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Rental proceeds benefit Japanese Tea Garden & San Antonio Parks Foundation  
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